

Claims:

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1. The use of one or more water-soluble zirconium compounds as drying accelerators in aqueous coating compositions, the binders present in the coating compositions comprising polymer dispersions based on one or more homopolymers and/or copolymers.
2. The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the overall zirconium compound content, calculated as zirconium oxide and based on the binders present in the coating compositions, is up to 50% by weight.
3. The use as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the overall zirconium compound content is from 0.5 to 10% by weight.
4. The use as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the zirconium compounds used comprise ammonium zirconium carbonate, zirconium acetoacetate, zirconium hydroxychloride, zirconium orthosulfate, zirconium propionate and/or potassium zirconium phosphate.
5. The use as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that ammonium zirconium carbonate is used as zirconium compound.
6. The use as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the zirconium compounds are added to the coating compositions as solids and/or as aqueous solutions.
7. The use as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that in addition to the binder the coating compositions comprise film formers, pigments, fillers, thickeners, dispersants, wetting agents, preservatives, emulsifiers and/or defoamers.

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8. The use as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, based on the overall amount of the monomers, the copolymers contain
- a) from 70 to 99.7% by weight of one or more free-radically polymerizable olefinically unsaturated compounds from the group consisting of acrylates and methacrylates of (C₁-C₁₂) monoalcohols, vinylaromatic monomers, vinyl esters of (C₁-C₁₂) alkanemonocarboxylic acids, vinyl halides, α,β -monoolefinically unsaturated nitriles and/or alkyl esters of monoolefinically unsaturated dicarboxylic acids,
 - b) from 0.3 to 10% by weight of one or more compounds from the group consisting of α,β -monoolefinically unsaturated monocarboxylic and dicarboxylic acids, and/or their amides or N-substituted amides, and
 - c) from 0 to 20% by weight of compounds from the group consisting of hydroxyl-containing monomers, acetylacetoxy-containing monomers, monomers containing epoxide groups, monomers containing silane groups, nitrogen-containing monomers and/or monomers containing keto groups.
9. The use as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the binders comprise emulsifiers, protective colloids, additives, auxiliaries and/or noncopolymerizable crosslinkers.
10. The use as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the coating compositions comprise an exterior paint, an interior paint, a roadmarking paint, a primer, a wood coating, exterior render or interior plaster.

